

Viking Quest: Government Assignments

May 2015

Week: 26th -29th

- *Read and complete Chapter 25 Study Guide handout pages 284-296*
- *Read and complete chapter 25 section assessments pages 689-713, Government textbook*
- *Complete Chapter 25 Assessment and Activities pages 714-715, Government textbook*

STUDY GUIDE Chapter 25, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 689–694.

CONSOLIDATED DEMOCRACIES

KEY TERMS

consolidated democracies Nations that have democratic elections, political parties, constitutional governments, independent judiciaries, and usually market economies (page 689)

parliamentary government Form of government in which executive and legislative functions both reside in an elected assembly, or parliament (page 689)

life peers People who have been awarded titles in the House of Lords honoring achievements (page 690)

presidential government A form of democratic government in which a president heads the executive branch (page 691)

apartheid Segregation of races enforced by the government (page 693)

sanctions Imposing restrictions and withholding aid in order to influence another government (page 693)

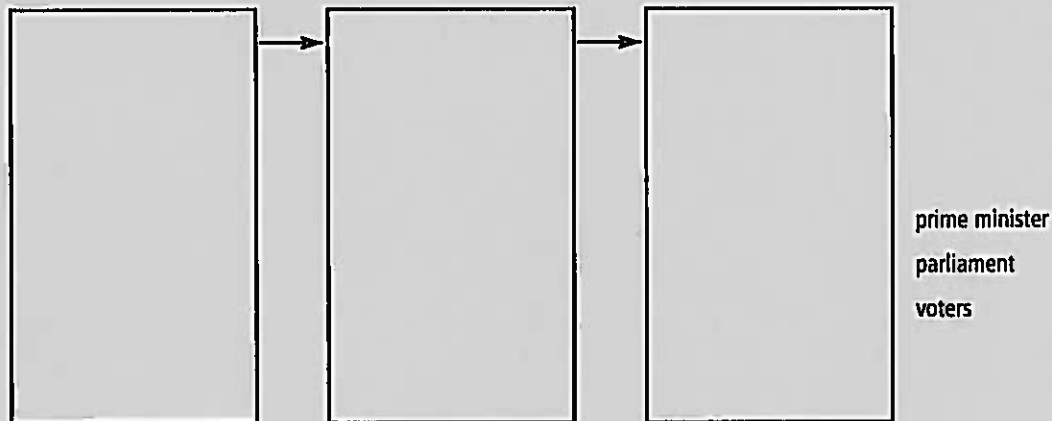
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you have anything in common with the British, French, and Japanese? One thing you share with these people is democratic government.

This section focuses on democracies around the world.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the graphic organizer below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how officials in a parliamentary government are chosen. Then assign the labels to the correct parts.



STUDY GUIDE (continued)

Chapter 25, Section 1

READ TO LEARN

Introduction (page 689)

The three basic types of government are long-standing democracies, nations in transition to democracy, and authoritarian governments. Countries like the United States are called **consolidated democracies**. These are nations that have fair elections, competing political parties, constitutions that guarantee individual rights, an independent judiciary, and some form of a market economy.

Parliamentary Systems (page 689)

One of the most widespread forms of democracy is **parliamentary government**. In this form, executive and legislative powers reside in the parliament, or elected assembly. Often the parliament selects the leaders of the executive branch, who are known as the cabinet.

In Great Britain, Parliament is a bicameral legislature. It includes the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The House of Commons has greater power than the House of Lords. The people elect members to the House of Commons, who are known as Members of Parliament (MPs), for five-year terms. The House of Commons determines Great Britain's legislative and financial policies. Most bills are introduced by the majority party. A majority vote is needed to pass a bill. The House of Lords is dominated by 540 **life peers**, people who have been awarded a title for outstanding service or achievement.

The leader of the majority party in the House of Commons becomes the prime minister. He or she chooses other ministers to head executive departments and serve as cabinet members. A prime minister who loses the support of his or her own party resigns from office. The party then chooses another prime minister. If the party should lose a vote on an important issue, Parliament is then dissolved. New general elections are held to determine what party will control the House of Commons.

In Japan, the bicameral legislature is called the National Diet. The upper house is the House of Councillors, and the lower house is the House of Representatives. The Japanese constitution states that the National Diet is the highest power in the state and the only lawmaker. The Diet also controls the nation's money policies.

The House of Representatives elects the prime minister and has the power to vote "no confidence" in the prime minister, or the chief executive, and the cabinet, just as in Great Britain. Both houses consider legislation. However, the House of Representatives may override a negative vote in the House of Councillors by a two-thirds majority. Members of the House of Councillors are chosen for six-year terms. Unlike the lower house, the House of Councillors cannot be dissolved.

In a parliamentary government, members of the cabinet preside over departments or ministries such as justice, foreign affairs, finance, education, health and welfare, agriculture, and labor. Japan's system also includes other cabinet members known as ministers of state. They include the deputy prime minister and heads of various agencies like the Economic Planning Agency.

In parliamentary systems, the prime minister and the cabinet together are called "the government." This is the equivalent of the American "administration." If the government should lose a vote on an important issue, it must resign. The legislature is then dissolved, and new general elections are held.

1. In what ways are the British and Japanese governments similar?

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 1****■ Presidential Government** (page 691)

Another form of democracy is *presidential government*. The United States Constitution separates the executive branch from the legislative and judicial branches. The office of the president was created to carry out the laws. The president of France has even more official powers than the president of the United States.

The French president serves a seven-year term. He or she is the only member of the government directly elected by voters of the nation at large. The president of France has the power:

- A. To negotiate treaties
- B. To appoint high officials
- C. To act as chair of the high councils of the armed forces
- D. To appeal directly to the people by means of a referendum
- E. To act as a dictator in times of national emergency

The president contacts the legislative branch of the French government through a premier, whom the president appoints. The premier appoints ministers, who form the cabinet. Together they conduct the day-to-day affairs of government. In theory, the premier and the cabinet are responsible to the deputies of the National Assembly—the lower house of the French Parliament. In practice, the premier and cabinet answer to the president. The president also has the power to dissolve the National Assembly and call for new elections.

2. Which two powers of the French president does the United States president not have?
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■ Emerging Democracies (page 692)

With the collapse of communism, opportunities have emerged for nations to create democratic governments. Among the emerging democracies are Poland, South Africa, and Mexico.

Poland led the way in revolutions against communism in Eastern Europe when a trade union called Solidarity swept the first democratic elections since World War II. Solidarity's leader, Lech Walesa, was elected the nation's president. To ensure the development of democracy, Walesa's followers had to write a constitution. In 1992 President Walesa signed a temporary constitution. Over the next several years, coming up with a permanent constitution proved a difficult task. Finally in 1997, the National Assembly adopted the new Constitution of the Republic of Poland. The majority of Polish voters approved the new plan, which included an emphasis on strengthening local government. Despite challenges to Poland's democracy, such as a weakened economy and the rise of Communist political supporters, Poland joined the European Union in 2004.

Beginning in 1948 in **South Africa**, blacks (Africans), whites, coloreds (mixed European and African descent), and Asians were strictly segregated. Blacks suffered most under this legalized segregation called **apartheid**. In the last half of the century, black nationalist groups such as the African National Congress (ANC) pressed for reforms. By the 1960s, ANC leader Nelson Mandela had formed a military force. In 1962, South African officials charged Mandela with treason and jailed him for life. In the 1980s, the United States and the nations of the European Economic Community ordered economic **sanctions**, or

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 1**

imposing restrictions and withholding aid, against the South African government. By the late 1980s, pressure from the anti-apartheid movement brought an end to apartheid, and Mandela was released in 1990. In April 1994, South Africa held its first nonracial national elections. The ANC won 252 out of the 400 seats in the National Assembly, which chose Nelson Mandela as president. Minority parties criticized the new government, and in 1996 the Afrikaner Nationalist party withdrew from the government. In 1999 the ANC again dominated elections. Future challenges for South Africa include ensuring equal rights throughout the society, and raising the standard of living while maintaining economic growth.

In 1917, *Mexico* adopted a constitution that divided the national government into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. However, the power of the president and the control of the government for more than 60 years by one political party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), made the Mexican government seem more authoritarian than democratic. For decades massive resources, political patronage, and the support of the media kept the PRI in power. But in 1994, the PRI candidate for president, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, won the presidency and introduced reforms that helped other parties compete fairly in Mexico's political process. As a result, Vicente Fox, the candidate of the National Assembly Party (PAN), became president in 2000. Since PAN did not have an outright majority, Fox's government had to form coalitions with other parties to pass legislation. His government supported global trade and made some economic progress, but many of the poorer classes were discontented. Global trade did not benefit the poor as much as upper and middle-class Mexicans. In the 2006 election, the more conservative candidate won, but only by a very narrow margin. Supporters of the defeated candidate did not immediately accept the outcome of the election and the nation faced many political challenges.

3. What are some of the challenges faced by the newly formed democratic governments in Poland, South Africa, and Mexico?

STUDY GUIDE Chapter 25, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 696–701.

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS

KEY TERMS

Muslim A follower of Islam (page 699)

mullah Specially trained religious leaders who interpret and uphold traditional Islamic teachings (page 700)

shah Iranian king (page 700)

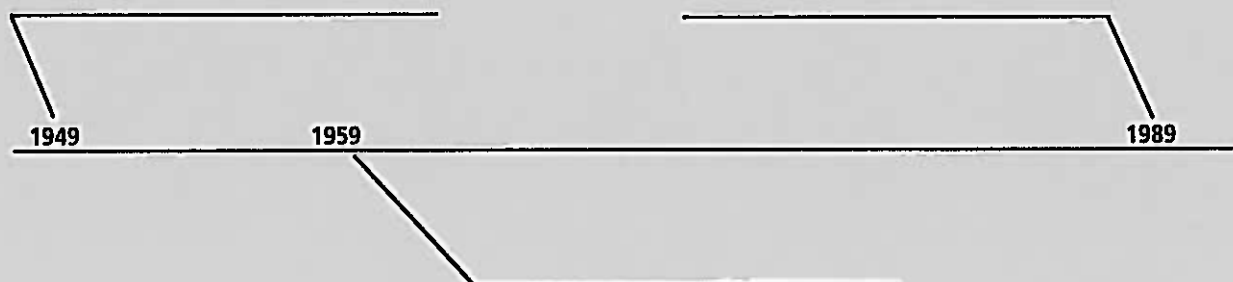
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Imagine you had to build a democratic government from scratch. Where would you begin? Emerging democracies have had to answer similar questions.

This section focuses on nations struggling to establish democracy.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the time line below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the important events in the history of Communist China and Cuba.



STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 2****READ TO LEARN****Introduction** (page 696)

The number of democratic nations is increasing. However, governments such as those in the People's Republic of China, Cuba, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Iran present a stark contrast to democracies.

The People's Republic of China (page 696)

In 1949 Communist revolutionaries led by Mao Zedong seized power in China. Mao led China for the next 30 years and, like the Soviet Union, established a totalitarian government controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Mao's government turned China into a socialist state by taking control of all industry, farmland, and workers.

Today China has two parallel systems of government. There is a ceremonial national government, which is actually controlled by the CCP. This is how the CCP is organized:

- A. The Communist Party's highest governing body is the National Party Congress. It serves as a rubber stamp for the party's policies.
- B. At the top of the CCP is the General Secretary, the most powerful party leader.
- C. National policy is made by the party's Political Bureau, or Politburo. The Politburo's Standing Committee is made up of the top seven CCP leaders. This elite group makes all of China's key political, economic, and military decisions.

In 1989 Chinese forces massacred hundreds of unarmed, pro-democracy students demonstrating in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. Today the authoritarian government oppresses minorities, such as Muslims and Tibetans, and suppresses criticism and popular organizations. It also tries to control the flow of ideas and information. For example, China has developed the world's most extensive Internet censoring system. The United States ended official diplomatic relations with China when the Communists gained control of the mainland in 1949. Since then relations have improved, though the United States wants China to end its human rights abuses and act as a stabilizing force in Asia.

1. What are China's two parallel systems of government?

Communism in Cuba (page 698)

In 1959 Fidel Castro led Cubans in a revolt that overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista. Under Castro, Cuba became a Communist dictatorship. Twice, tensions between Cuba and the United States have boiled over. The first time was the 1961 failed invasion of Cuba, called the Bay of Pigs. A year later, the United States discovered Soviet missiles in Cuba. The Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. The end of the Cold War left Cuba isolated in the early 1990s. The loss of Soviet aid and low prices for sugar exports caused an economic crisis, but the United States kept up its trade embargo against Cuba. Americans pressured Castro to move toward a democratic system in return for better relations and economic aid. However, these efforts have failed to move Castro toward instituting democratic reforms.

2. Why did the United States impose a trade embargo against Cuba?

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 2****North Korea** (page 699)

After World War II, the Korean peninsula was divided into two parts. South Korea, aided by the United States, became a democracy. North Korea, supported by the Soviet Union, became a Communist nation. Today, the government of North Korea, led by dictator Kim Jong Il, controls all aspects of its peoples' lives. North Koreans are cut off from outside information and told to give Kim "absolute devotion," despite their economic suffering. Since the early 1990s, North Korea has begun to develop chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. The United States has sought to limit this development.

3. What were the two parts of the Korean peninsula after World War II?
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Islamic Governments (pages 699–701)

Islam is a religion spread by the prophet Muhammad, who claimed that he received the teachings of God (Allah) in a vision. These teachings were written in the Quran. A *Muslim* is a follower of Islam. Today there are over one billion Muslims spread throughout the Middle East and many other non-Arab countries, such as Iran. Islamic leaders believe that there is no need for a separation between religion and the government as there is in the United States. Thus, in Islamic governments, the Quran provides the guidance needed on issues such as the duties of citizens and rulers, and how the government should exercise power.

Some Muslims, called secularists, believe that religious doctrine and secular (nonreligious) law should be kept separate. Others, Muslim fundamentalists, believe Islamic countries should base their law solely on the Quran. They look to *mullahs*, specially trained religious leaders who interpret traditional Islamic teachings, to unite Muslims around the world into one community. Many fundamentalist Muslims see Western culture and society as a threat to Islam. Their goal is to bring down moderate Islamic governments that accept foreign customs.

Iran During the 1960s and 1970s, the shah, or king of Iran, led a Western-oriented government. It developed a capitalist economy based on oil. Muslim religious leaders opposed the shah. In 1979, under the leadership of the Shiite Muslim leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, they revolted and set up an Islamic republic. In an Islamic republic, religious leaders can veto political decisions. In 2005, President Ahmadinejad was elected. A hardliner, he supports terrorists who want to destroy Israel. He has also begun building a nuclear weapons program, despite United Nations opposition.

The government of Saudi Arabia, a country that has provided oil and important military bases to the United States, is a monarchy based on a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam. There is no separation of church and state. Aside from the royal family, the most powerful political force in the country is the mullahs, who impose traditional Islamic ideas through government sponsored organizations. In the 1950s, the discovery of oil transformed Saudi Arabia into a wealthy, urban nation. More and more Saudis began demanding an elected government. Since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, many American critics have accused the Saudi government of indirectly supporting terrorism to appease fundamentalist Muslims within Saudi Arabia.

4. How do secularist Muslims differ from fundamentalist Muslims?
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STUDY GUIDE Chapter 25, Section 3

For use with textbook pages 702–707.

I INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

KEY TERMS

nongovernmental organizations Made up of individuals and groups outside the scope of government, such as the International Red Cross (page 702)

intergovernmental organizations Made up of members of national governments, such as the United Nations (page 702)

supranational organizations Organizations whose authority overrides the sovereignty of its individual members (page 704)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Do you read about world events? Then you may have seen items about the leaders of China, Cuba, Iran, and Iraq.

This section focuses on authoritarian states, which outnumber democracies.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the table below to take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the different units that make up the United Nations.

United Nations

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 3****READ TO LEARN****Introduction** (page 702)

International organizations play a key role in world politics. There are two types of such organizations. *Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)*, such as the International Red Cross, are made up of individuals and groups outside the scope of government. *Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs)*, such as the United Nations (UN), are composed of members of national governments. IGOs are created through agreements, usually treaties, negotiated by the member states. The powers of an IGO are established and limited by its members.

The United Nations (page 702)

The United Nations was established in 1945 to provide a forum for nations to settle their disputes peacefully. Today, membership includes 192 nations. The organization has three main goals:

- A. To preserve world peace and security;
- B. To encourage nations to deal fairly with one another; and
- C. To help nations cooperate in trying to solve their social and economic problems.

The main headquarters of the UN is located in New York City and is divided into a variety of units:

The General Assembly is at the heart of the UN. It discusses, debates, and recommends solutions for major international problems, and also controls the UN's budget.

The Security Council is a kind of executive board for the General Assembly. It has the authority to make peacekeeping decisions. For example, it may call for breaking off relations with a nation, ending trade with a nation, or using military force. However, the Security Council is unable to act if one of its members vetoes a measure.

The Secretariat does the UN's day-to-day business. The General Assembly appoints a Secretary General to carry out the instructions of the Security Council.

The International Court of Justice, or World Court, is the UN's judicial branch. Member nations may voluntarily submit disputes to this court for settlement.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is responsible for helping the UN promote social and economic progress around the world. It is concerned with such issues as improving education, health, and human rights.

Other units carry out the organization's humanitarian activities, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The UN also has a limited ability to use military force for peacekeeping. Since 1948 the UN has conducted 56 peacekeeping operations, but the majority were conducted after the end of the Cold War in 1990. UN peacekeeping involves inserting an international force of troops between combatants as a way to calm or monitor the situation. Lightly armed peacekeeping forces may also undertake other missions, such as overseeing elections or providing humanitarian aid. The 1990 Persian Gulf War was a UN peacekeeping operation. After Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait on its way to Saudi Arabia, the UN Security Council voted to condemn Iraq and allowed U.S. forces to lead a coalition of seven nations to

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 3**

repel the invaders. The UN also imposed economic sanctions to force Iraq to agree to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and comply with UN weapons inspectors.

1. What are the three main goals of the United Nations?

☐ The European Union (page 704)

The European Union (EU) has evolved farther than any other intergovernmental organization towards becoming a *supranational organization*, or an organization whose authority overrides the sovereignty of its individual members. Since its founding, the EU has developed into a quasi-government with the authority to make and enforce decisions that apply to all of its members.

The EU was created in 1957 when six Western European nations decided to move toward a common trading market called the European Economic Community (EEC) to remove all economic restrictions between the member nations. In 1993 the EC was renamed the European Union, which today has 27 members. As more countries joined the EU, they began to press for more political, as well as economic, integration. With the 1993 Maastricht Treaty, member nations began to yield power to the EU, which allowed the EU to act more as a political unit able to enforce common rules for trade, crime fighting, immigration, citizenship, and more. In 2004, EU leaders drafted a constitution to clarify various EU treaties and EU powers. Voters in France and the Netherlands refused to ratify this constitution, however. People in some European nations may have felt that integration had gone far enough.

The EU government is complex in order to accommodate the distinct cultures, languages, and political traditions of its members:

The Council of the European Union is a group chosen by each member nation that decides the key directions for EU policy.

The European Parliament (EP) is the legislative branch of the EU. It works alongside the Council to form the annual budget and supervise smaller EU institutions.

The European Court of Justice, the judicial branch of the EU, has one judge per member state. It often uses EU treaties as a kind of constitution by which to judge cases, and can declare laws of member nations invalid if they conflict with EU treaty obligations.

The European Commission does much of the EU's daily work, such as drafting proposals for new laws. One commissioner is selected by the Council to be the President of the Commission. The president directs the large EU bureaucracy and oversees the annual budget.

Many Europeans complain that the "Eurocracy," as the EU bureaucracy is called, has grown too large and is no longer responsive to the public.

2. How did the 1993 Maastricht Treaty change the power of the European Union?

STUDY GUIDE Chapter 25, Section 4

For use with textbook pages 708–712.

GLOBAL ISSUES

KEY TERMS

terrorism The use of violence by nongovernmental groups against civilians to achieve a political goal (page 708)

state-sponsored terrorism Terrorism that is secretly supported by a government (page 708)

nuclear proliferation The spread of nuclear weapons (page 709)

human rights The basic freedoms and rights that all people should enjoy, regardless of age, gender, nationality, or ethnicity (page 710)

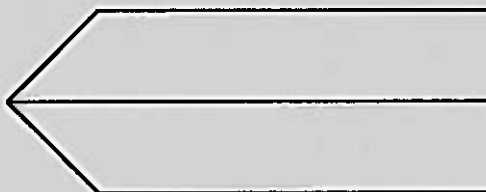
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

How would you feel if Canada and Mexico went to war? You might be afraid that the United States would go to war, too. Often national security depends on the peace and security of other nations. This section focuses on how nations try to protect the safety of the world.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about the promises made by the major nuclear power plants when they signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Non-Proliferation
Treaty



STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 4****READ TO LEARN****Introduction** (page 707)

Solving global issues may require cooperation among nations. Important global issues today include defeating terrorism, limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, promoting human rights, and protecting the environment.

International Terrorism (page 708)

Terrorism is the use of violence by nongovernmental groups against civilians to achieve a political goal. Recently over 300 attacks of terrorism per year have occurred worldwide. Since World War II most terrorist attacks against America have been carried out by Middle Eastern groups. Some reasons for this include American support of Middle Eastern oil industries—which increases the disparity between rich and poor Middle Eastern families and increases Middle Eastern cultural contact with the West—and American support of Israel. In the 1970s several Middle Eastern nations realized they could fight the United States by supporting terrorist groups. When a government secretly supports terrorism, this is called **state-sponsored terrorism**. The governments of Libya, Syria, Iraq, and Iran have all sponsored terrorism.

Osama bin Laden, a wealthy Muslim terrorist, founded an organization in 1988 called al-Qaeda. Bin Laden believed that Western ideas had contaminated Muslim society, and that superpowers like America could be beaten. He dedicated himself and al-Qaeda to driving Westerners, especially Americans, out of the Middle East. Attacks throughout the 1990s culminated in al-Qaeda's devastating attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001. The United States responded by going to war.

In October 2001 the United States began bombing targets in Afghanistan. President Bush emphasized that the targets of American attacks were al-Qaeda's camps and the Taliban's military forces, and that Islam and the Afghan people were not the enemy. However, he also vowed that the war on terrorism would not end "until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." Defeating global terrorism will require many nations to work together towards this common goal.

1. Why are most terrorist attacks against the United States carried out by Middle Eastern groups?

Nuclear Weapons Threat (page 709)

Another global problem is the spread of nuclear weapons, or **nuclear proliferation**. The United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, and China have had nuclear weapons for many years. Several other nations are believed to possess nuclear weapons, or have acquired the capability to produce them. In 1968 the major nuclear powers created the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), in which they promised:

- A. Not to provide nuclear weapons technology to other countries;
- B. To ensure the safe use of nuclear power; and
- C. To encourage general disarmament and destruction of existing nuclear weapons.

The United Nations has also imposed sanctions on nations seeking to build nuclear weapons. However, it is now possible to build small nuclear weapons using cheaper, more readily-available substances. This means that a wider range of nations, including terrorist groups, may have access to the materials needed to build a nuclear weapon. Two nations that the United States is particularly concerned about are North Korea and Iran. Both of these nations have developed, or are developing, the capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons. Because both nations have also been accused of sponsoring terrorism, many fear that these countries' weapons could be sold to international terrorist groups. The United States, Britain,

STUDY GUIDE (continued)**Chapter 25, Section 4**

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Russia have pledged to spend a total of \$20 billion over the next 10 years on non-proliferation efforts.

2. What are the three components of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?
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Human Rights (page 710)

Human rights are the basic freedoms and rights that all people should enjoy, regardless of age, gender, nationality, or ethnicity. In 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which included:

- A. Political and civil rights, such as the right to seek asylum, the right to marry, and the right to own property. These articles list things a government *should not* do to limit a person's freedoms.
- B. Economic, social, and cultural rights, such as the right to equal pay for equal work and the right to an education. These are "positive rights," or things governments *should* do for people.

The international community has developed numerous institutions and procedures for safeguarding human rights. The UN Security Commission on Human Rights monitors and reports on human rights violations. The UN's international criminal tribunals are temporary courts convened under UN authority to prosecute human rights violators. The countries of the European Union (EU) stand behind the European Convention of Human Rights, which sets forth a long list of civil liberties that apply to all EU countries. Finally, a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) was established in 2002 to investigate and prosecute those accused of major human rights violations and war crimes. However, the United States, along with several other nations, refused to sign this treaty because they feared that American military troops and leaders could become the targets of frivolous complaints of war crimes by enemies of the United States.

3. What are "positive rights"?
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Protecting the Environment (page 711)

Exploding population growth, increasing consumption of natural resources, and growing pollution all threaten the environment. Dealing with these issues requires international cooperation. The dilemma is how to attain sustainable development, or a balance between economic development and protection of the environment. Developed nations like the United States are able to find ways to make its industry more efficient and less damaging to the environment. Developing nations, however, feel they need to place their highest priority on economic growth.

Many international conferences and treaties have dealt with the issue of the environment. In 1992 the UN's "Earth Summit" produced the Biodiversity Treaty, which set forth procedures for conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol set down timetables for reducing greenhouse emissions. The United States signed the protocol, but it was never submitted to Congress for ratification. Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush disliked the fact that some nations were exempted or feared the impact its guidelines would have on the American economy.

4. What three issues threaten the well-being of the global environment?
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